

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE CALLS FOR STRATEGIC INVENTORY TO DETERMINE U.S. NEEDS

WASHINGTON--Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called upon President Carter to order a national net assessment of strategic needs, priorities and spending proposals by a Blue Ribbon Commission, reporting to the President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"During the recent debate on the SALT II treaty much has been said concerning a need for greater defense spending," Dole said at a press conference at the Capitol. "It may well be that additional resources are needed to maintain a strong defense posture. But we need the facts. National defense is not simply a matter of spending more and more money. What concerns me is not the total amount spent, or some arbitrary percentage increase in spending, but, rather, that the money be utilized in an efficient, cost-effective manner that provides the most security at the least possible cost to the American taxpayer."

According to Dole, "The best way to ensure this is by a careful analysis of our total defense posture. We need to take inventory and reassess our strategic capabilities. If, as a result of such an assessment, we find we must act to strengthen certain areas to ensure American security, then no one will fight harder to see that those programs are enacted than Bob Dole. And if the assessment reveals waste, no one will move quicker to have it removed than I," said Dole.

Senator Dole has said repeatedly that he is undecided on how he will vote on the SALT II Treaty.

"I have been following the testimony before the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees closely," said Dole. "As I said Tuesday at the National Press Club, I believe the Treaty stands a better chance of passage today, due in part to the hearings. But there are still a sizable number of us in the Senate who remain truly uncommitted. We are a bipartisan group, honestly concerned that this treaty provide the U.S. with the security this nation requires for the 1980's and beyond. In my opinion, a strategic inventory would provide us with the kind of assurance we need that this would be the case. I urge the President to join with me to establish this blue ribbon commission."